

(b) how many schemes under this Act for protection of Taj Mahal have been implemented; and

(c) how much expense has been incurred under this scheme since the last three years?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been constituted on 17.5.99 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. A scheme called the Taj Protection Mission is being implemented for protection of the Taj Mahal. The scheme presently includes 10 projects. A sum of Rs. 74.28 crores has been spent till 30.6.2000.

Production of Aluminium

***190. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) The production of aluminium during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the details of aluminium producing companies;

(c) the names of the companies whose production has declined; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the production of aluminium?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) There are five primary producers of Aluminium, namely National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), Hindalco Industries Limited (HINDALCO), Indian Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL) and Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO). Total production of Aluminium during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 5,45,253 Tonnes and 6,17,992 Tonnes respectively.

(c) In the year 1999-2000, production declined only in the case of MALCO as the Company was not operating at full capacity during the period April to September, 1999.

(d) In order to increase the participation of the private sector, the Aluminium Industry has been exempted from the provisions of Compulsory Licensing. Foreign investment upto 100% equity participation is also permitted on the automatic route. The two major

producers of Aluminium, viz., NALCO and HINDALCO, are implementing major expansion programmes to increase their production by 1,15,000 MT and 1,00,000 MT per annum respectively.

Fine for wild life offences

***191. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:**

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the provisions regarding fine for wild life offences;
- (b) whether Government propose to hike the fine amount of substantially for offences under the Wild Life Protection Act. 1972, so that it could deter the offenders;
- (c) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has also proposed to hike the amount of fine for such offences; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Under Section 51 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, following penalties have been prescribed for contravening the provisions of the Act.

- (i) Any persons who violates any of the provisions of the Act or Rules or Order made there under (except Chapter V-A and Section 38-J) on conviction is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years or with a fine which may extend to Rs. 25,000/- or with both.
- (ii) Persons committing any offences relating to wild animals included in Schedule I or Part-II of Schedule II or meat of any such animal article, trophy, or uncured trophy derived from such animal and the offence relating to hunting in or altering the boundaries of a Sanctuary or National Parks shall be punishable with imprisonment for a terms not less than one year but which may extend to six years and also with a fine which is not less than Rs. 5,000/-. For a subsequent offence of this nature the minimum term of imprisonment would not